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Title: Comparison of life quality between patients with COPD and victims of chemical warfare using CAT (COPD assessment test) questionnaire

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Body: Introduction In COPD, measurement of health-related quality of life is a descriptive tool to estimate prognosis of the disease. Victims of chemical warfare who have small air way involvement are considered as a group of patients with COPD, yet in comparison with COPD patients who are smokers they have differences in severity of signs and symptom. The purpose of our work was to compare life quality in two groups of COPD patients using CAT questionnaire. Materials and methods The first group was composed of 40 patients who were smokers for at least 20 years. The second group was made of 45 patients who were victims of chemical warfare. They were not smokers. Both groups were male and both groups had obstructive pattern in spirometry (minimum criterion FEV1/FVC < 70%). Patients baseline characteristics and spirometry volumes were recorded and then subjects filled the CAT questionnaire. Results In group A, CAT scores varied from 2 to 34, mean= 19.25. FEV1 varied from 17% to 67%, mean= 33.14, and FVC ranged from 36.9% to 80%, mean=51.14. In group B CAT scores varied from 5 to 39, mean= 22.25. FEV1 varied from 17.5% to 89%, mean= 53.14, and FVC ranged from 22.9% to 100%, mean=61.12. Victims of chemical warfare in spite of significantly higher mean of respiratory volumes, had higher CAT total score. Conclusion In conclusion we can say although victims of chemical warfare with small airway disease have higher respiratory volumes, their quality of life is lower than other COPD patients.